

The CENS Digital hearing protectors, expensive yes, but highly efficient too



Audibly Superior

Mark Stone discovers the sound of silence with CENS hearing protectors

When it comes to game shooting the one item of protection I refuse to wear are earphones.

To my mind they look wrong and have the habit of catching on the stock. So until now I've made do with rubber ear plugs that I find both irritating and only one click up on useless. However, I've now acquired a pair of CENS or Custom Electronic Noise Suppressors.

Pour, plug and play

Available in either analogue or digital, the two custom-built hearing protectors provide near unsurpassed protection, whilst providing the wearer with a sense of perceived sound that verges on aural ESP. All the user has to do is set time aside for the moulds to be taken, either at home or at one of Puretone's numerous agents, wait a week, then fit them into their ears and turn them on.

Formed and moulded to the exact contours of the individual's ear, each specifically referenced ear piece allows the wearer to hear absolutely everything including the gun going off. Low soft noises such as conversations are transmitted as normal. Where the CENS Digital comes into its own

is in ensuring that attenuation levels are kept between 20 – 30dB. In other words when the gun goes bang all you hear is a soft popping noise.

Waxing lyrical

Complete with two pre-programmed settings, #1 for game, #2 for clay shooting, there's also individual volume adjustment. This is accomplished by applying gentle pressure on either of the two buttons inset into the plug. Power is supplied by a micro battery that slots neatly into the material. Delivered with both a hard and soft travelling case, full personal details and references are contained on a warranty card whilst a cleaning tool is also supplied to remove fouling from the CENS wax trap.

CENS Digital and their analogue equivalent do represent a reasonably significant investment, the cost being £499 and £399 respectively. But you only have one pair of ears and once the damage is done it's too late. However, the question you have to ask yourself is what price do I put on my hearing? What I will say is that after now having worn a pair of Digitals for the past few months there's no way I'll go back to using anything else.



Detail of the plug; note the controls, microphone cover and battery compartment in its open position

The performance exceeds Puretone's description whilst the ability to detect approaching pheasants literally can and has to be heard to be believed.

Without any reservations CENS Digitals receive my stamp of 'thoroughly recommended'.

CENS Digital Noise Suppressors

- Price: Digital £499, analogue £399
- Contact: Puretone Limited on 01634 - 719427
- www.censdigital.com